

Notes and News.

ENTOMOLOGICAL GLEANINGS FROM ALL QUARTERS OF THE GLOBE.

Note on *Anatis 15-punctata* and *A. caseyi* n. sp. (Coleop.).

The varied marking of *A. 15-punctata* is no new thing. Say's *mali* with ocellated spots is as frequent in this vicinity as the typical form. All shades of red and yellow are found and many which are so dark that the spots are, as commonly stated, very "indistinct." However, I have recently taken one which is entirely outside of any description I remember to have seen. It is jet black, with absolutely no discernible spots, indistinct or otherwise. The thoracic markings are pure white, while on all my other varieties the thoracic markings are invariably some shade of yellow. To speak of this insect as *15-punctata* is so flagrant a misnomer that I venture to suggest that this variety be called *Anatis caseyi*, in memory of the fact that at least one coccinellid appears to have succeeded in escaping the notice of so indefatigable an investigator.—O. S. WEST-CORR, Oak Park, Ill., June 29, 1912.

The Splitting of Insect Tracheae.

In studying the tracheae of mosquito larvae, I found the following method to be very useful. This method consists in flattening the tracheal tubes between a glass slide and a cover glass and then splitting the tubes in half longitudinally.

The technic is carried out as follows: First, the tracheal tubes are dissected from the insect and are then transferred to a clean glass slide. The tracheae should remain free from any torn tissue and if possible a small quantity of blood should remain on the tracheae. If there is not sufficient blood, a drop of water will answer fairly well. A clean cover glass should then be put on, pressed down lightly, and the excess of water wiped off to allow the cover glass to fit closely. In working with very small tubes, the success of the operation depends upon the care exercised in causing as close a contact as possible between the cover glass and the glass slide.

After thorough drying, which usually takes a day, the cover glass can either be lifted off or shifted a little to the side so as to uncover the lower half of the tube. If the cover glass is not removed, it should be securely attached to the glass slide in order to prevent further shifting, which may injure the specimen. Prepared in this way the tracheae are ready for microscopic examination.